GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5056
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2003
ILLEGAL CULTIVATION AND SMUGGLING OF OPIUM
RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether illegal cultivation of opium and its smuggling is continuing despite all the efforts made by the Government and India is being used as a transit place for smuggling of opium;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government propose to take action afresh to stop cultivation of illegal opium and its smuggling; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) Marginal and minor cases of illegal cultivation of opium poppy have been detected in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal during the year 2001 and 2002. However, no case has been reported where India is being used as a transit country for the smuggling of opium.

(b) Details of illicit cultivation of opium detected and destroyed are as follows:

Year	Area of illicit opium cultivation detected and destroyed (in acres)
2000	379
2001	44
2002	539

These are very small areas compared to the 50,000 acres (approx.) of licensed cultivation in the 3 States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) & (d) Stringent provisions already exist under Section 8 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 which prohibits illegal cultivation of opium poppy and its trafficking. Section 18 of the said Act provides for stringent punishment to any person who illegally cultivates opium poppy or engages in its trafficking. Prompt action is taken by the drug law enforcement agencies to eradicate any illegal cultivation of opium poppy as and when detected. Directions have been issued to the Drug Law Enforcement Agencies of the Central Government and the State Governments concerned to check illegal cultivation of opium poppy.